

ESPINAS Y FLORES

PUBLICATION OF THE SAN DIEGO
CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

TOMO IV # 3

MARCH, 1969



CALIFORNIA'S FIRST CITY

ENRICHMENT

ENRICHING your garden areas with furnishings and decorations to provide facilities for sitting, eating, relaxing, sunbathing and cooling off will quite often suggest possibilities for uses and experiences in developed outdoor areas not readily apparent to you before. The exploration and accomplishment in merging the best related techniques of design, through use of furniture and art objects, will make the outdoor home warm, intimate, colorful, and imaginative, while linking it with the interior as one integral development.

For a long while "enrichment" was largely ignored by modern designers. Decoration and ornamentation were considered futile attempts to apply beauty to the surface of something already completely designed. Frank Lloyd Wright was the standard bearer of buildings with organic embellishments designed into the structure. Gradually architects moved away from plain plaster, glass, and steel to the use of other materials, giving more color and texture to the basic structures. Today the American residential architecture grows more warm, more human, and a more usable place in which to live.

Enrichment can become clutter and confusion, a hodge-podge which makes one restless, nervous, and even irritable, as was typical of the old Victorian parlors. It is important to design in total combination, so that there is unity in the way we live in what we live. The elements of enrichment are many. They include flowers, small plants, ornamental water, rock, driftwood, and other "found" art. They also include

(Continued next page)

MARCH MEETING

Saturday, March 1, 1969
2 pm

Floral Assoc, Bldg. - Balboa Park

A MEMBER'S CRUISE TO THE
MEDITERRANEAN AND BLACK SEAS
(WITH SLIDES)

DR. CORLISS

REFRESHMENTS
SALE TABLE
EXCHANGE TABLE
BRAGGIN' TABLE

ENRICHMENT - Continued

such man made elements as furniture, barbecues, lighting, ceramics, sculpture, and so on. All, however, must be considered in their relationship to the primary shelter, enclosure, and surfacing elements. The interior and exterior should never be separated in your thinking; their proper combination will test and exemplify the best talents of landscape and interior design.

The garden elements should traditionally be based around your horticultural interest, large or small, whether it be something for the kitchen, the vase, for a collection, or just to look at. Too often these interests develop for themselves alone without adequate regard to framing, setting, or background, and are lost in a maze of monofariousness. Play up to your accent, frame it with non-detracting interest, enclose with a background giving it emphasis, not ostentation, and place in a setting of importance.

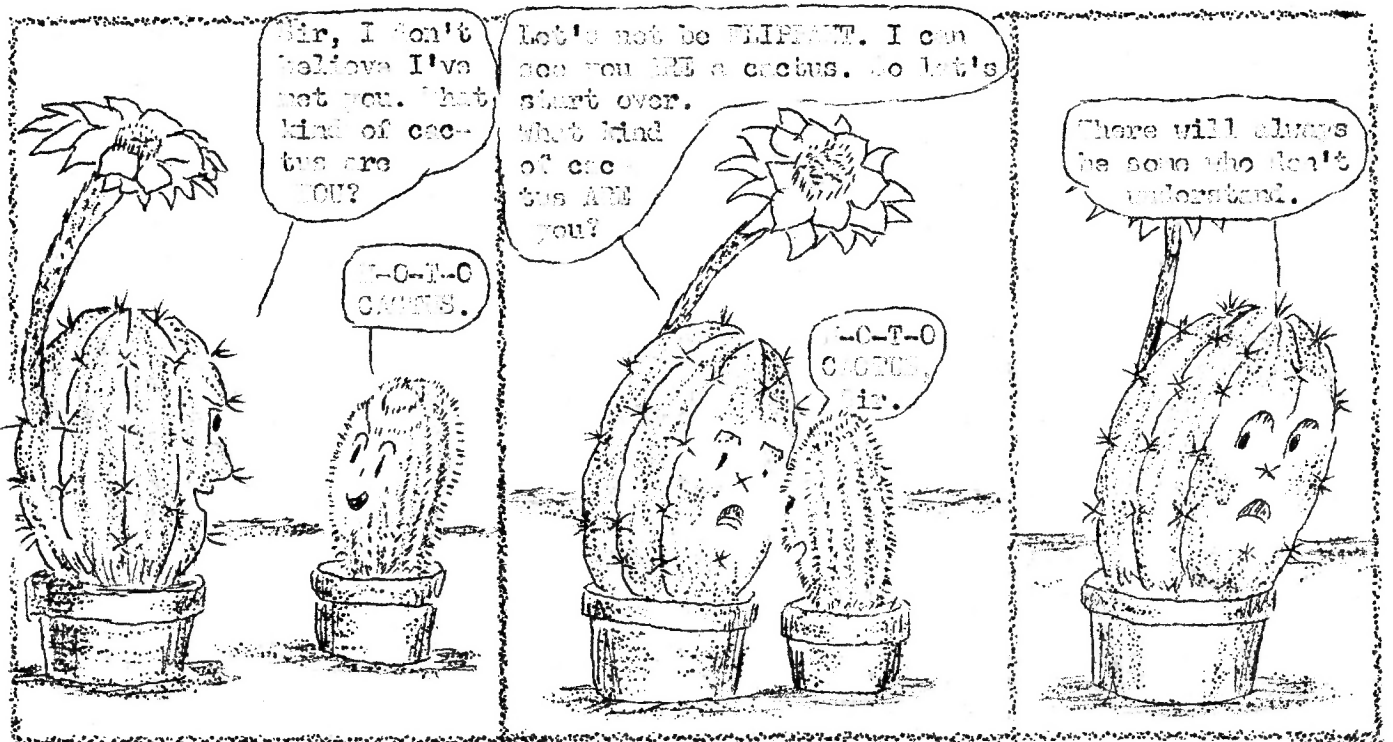
The choice among all the diverse kinds of enrichment is mostly a personal thing; based on desire and need. The first pitfall is usually too much of a good thing. You must control your zeal, for whatever your pleasure, it must be financed, and it must be maintained. The second pitfall is more subtle, and perhaps more disarming than the first. That is to accumulate quantities of the enriching qualities before the primary elements have been established. The finest garden in the world falls flat without adequate and appropriate background and setting. The enriching elements are those that most interest the gardener or others who appreciate the outdoors, and can easily be all consuming. But with over-all planning and imagination, using the concept of three dimensional form, a garden can successfully reach maximum interest and richness without regard to vastness of collected elements.

Many, many volumes of poetry and prose have been written about plants and planting. Some well done, some badly, some beautiful, some corny; but with the intentions of all there can be no disagreement. They are endlessly lovely, persistent and adaptable. They are magnificently fragile, colorful, and variable. They are richly endowed with structure, form and texture; and filled with potentiality for the free harmony of a beautiful world. Plan and plant your garden. Spring will soon be here... -- js

FRIENDSHIP

A SHORT TIME AGO an article in the local newspaper described the success of a California airline competing with larger concerns for intrastate customers. They contributed their good fortune in part to their hostesses, who are chosen for femininity and friendliness. While they emphasized femininity, we

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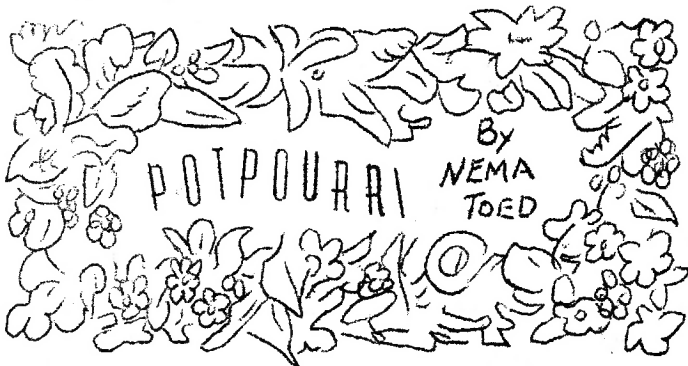
FRIENDSHIP - Continued

cuss and assist one another toward better knowledge and increased interest in cacti and other succulents.

The airline hostesses have a favorite saying "Your flight is what you make it. We try to make it fun, and honestly believe that our spirit communicates itself to the passengers." This expression also applies to us by saying, "Your club is what you make it. We try to make it fun and believe that our actions and spirit communicates among the membership, thereby making each succeeding meeting better than those preceding it."

The Officers and Board of Directors for 1969 are unanimous in the opinion that we have a club whose members radiate friendliness among each other, and this spirit will continue to increase with our variety of interesting programs, our social hour following the meeting, along with the exchange of plants and plant information.

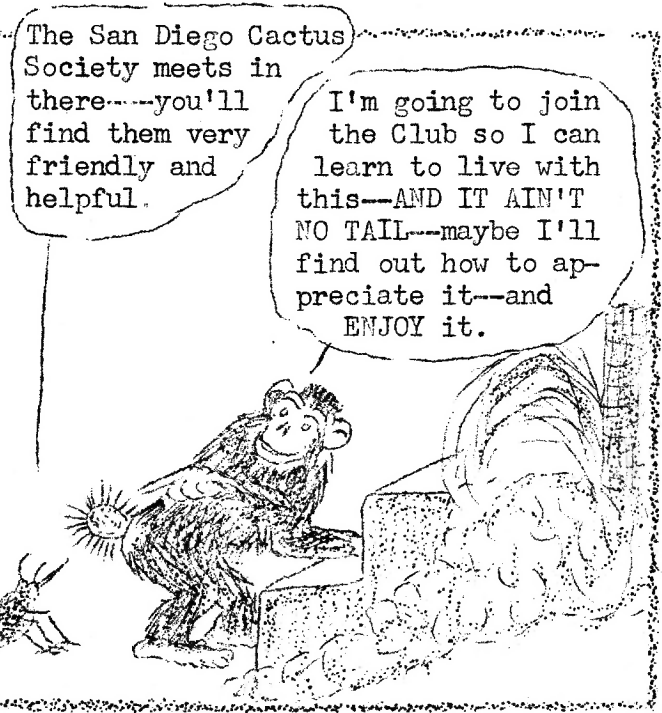
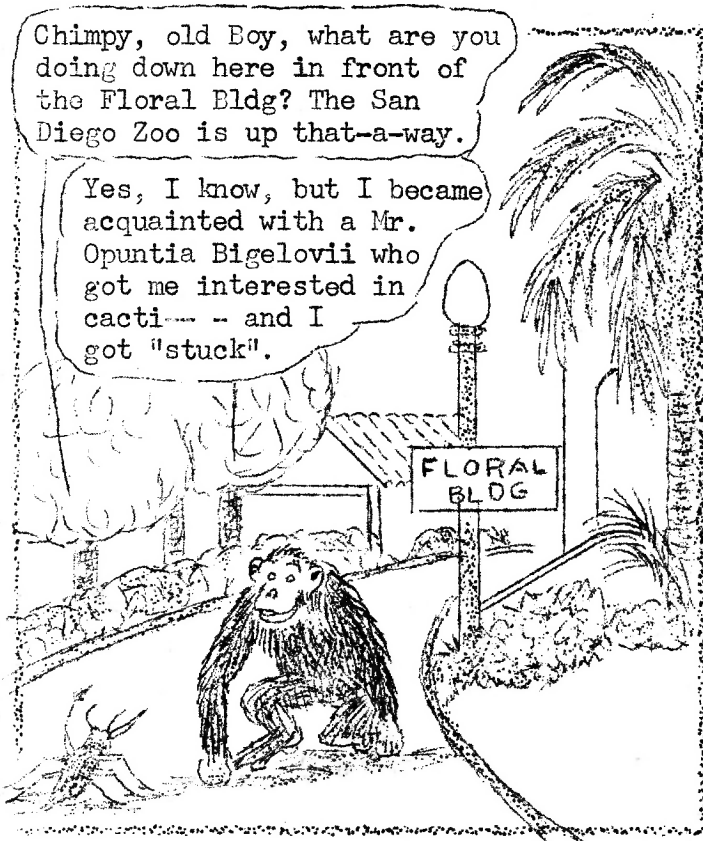
Our aim for the year is to increase our membership, improve our knowledge of cacti and to place the name of the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society before the public with the knowledge that our society will be recognized as one of the outstanding in the community. -- W.E.C.



DEAR NEMA: I was referred to you by Lad. Cutak of Missouri Botanical Gardens. I am interested in buying cactus, trading, publications, communications with club members, locating other enthusiasts, and just about anything relating to cacti. Very little interest here in the North Florida area. Hoping you can be of some help. Wesley Patterson, PO Box 327, Helrose, Florida.

DEAR WES: When the best things are not possible, the best may be made of those that are.... There are many enthusiastic cactophiles around these parts. May our association be warm, lasting, and mutual. One person with a belief is equal to a force of 99 who only have interests. -- N.T.

DEAR NEMA: Mrs. Dorothy Graves, 438 Elm, Imperial Beach, is disposing of her late husband's collection... Anyone interested should contact her at 424-9708. She has (Continued next page)



POTPOURRI - Continued

some lovely specimens. - Interested Observer

Thank you, I.O. We hope many will find new homes and bear forth the fruit of their being...like plants that throw their fragrance from the wounded part, breathe sweetness out of woe. - N.T.

DEAR NANA: Doctors of ancient Egypt prescribed the juice of Euphorbias in one form or another for at least 20% of the diseases known to them..
--Leif Hopper

Dear Leif: Nature has given us the seeds of knowledge, not knowledge itself. -- N.T.

DEAR NEMA Here's a recipe for a Shrimp Master-piece too good to miss...

1 cup cooked & shelled shrimp.

2 Tbsp Butter

1/3 c dry, white Vermouth

1/2 t salt

1 TBsp Tomato Paste

8 inch partially cooked pastry shell placed on buttered baking sheet.

Salt & Pepper

1 1/4 - 1 1/2 c. Milk

Pinch each of pepper and nutmeg

1/4 c grated Swiss Cheese

Pinch of Oregano

3 eggs

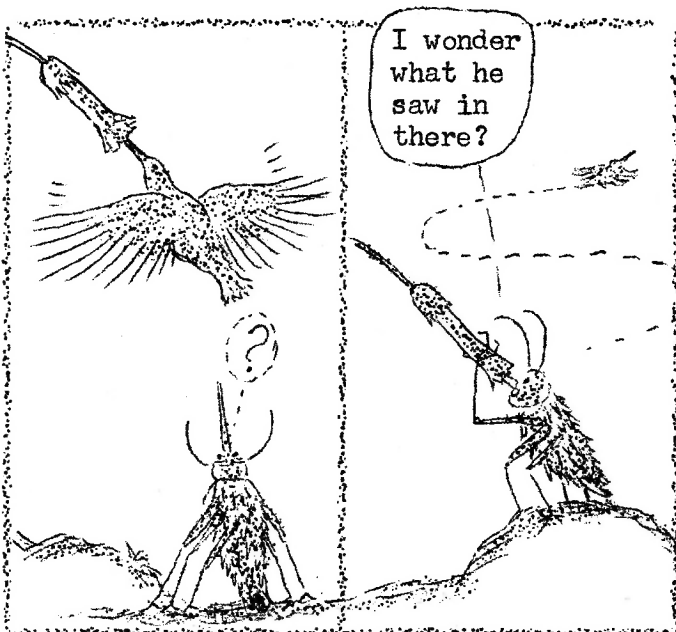
Toss shrimp in butter over moderately high heat. Season lightly with salt, pepper and oregano; add Vermouth, and boil rapidly until liquid has almost evaporated entirely. Spread shrimp in bottom of pastry shell. Beat together eggs, milk and seasonings; add tomato paste, and pour over shrimp, filling shell to within 1/8 inch of top. Spread grated cheese on top and dot with butter. Bake 25 to 30 minutes at 375 degrees.

-- Elka Zelzer

Dear Elka: Precision in public utterances is not a characteristic of this column; however, this sounds so scrumptious, that the next time we go camping down near Guaymas, we'll whip up a batch for A. Phidd... What can be said of life, can be said of the stomach, there is nothing at all in it, except what we put there. -- N.T.

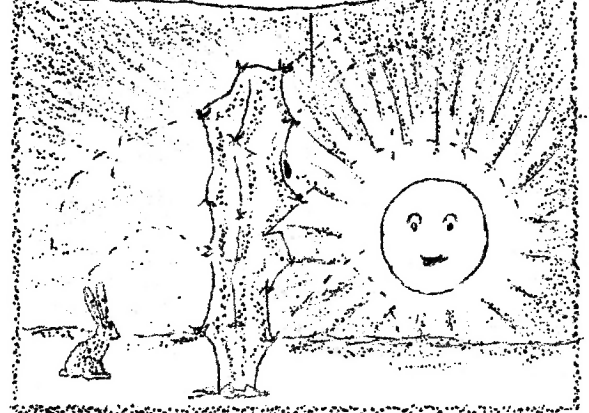
DEAR NEMA: Is it really true that our very own Dr. Corliss has written a book on Day Lilies -- is it in our library?

--Day Lily Fancier.



Mr. A Ph'D, The Inquisitive

If Astronauts can fly AROUND the Moon, we Euphorbias should be able to make a few plantings on this side.



MOON PLANTING ATTEMPTS

DEAR LILY: (As we look each way to see who's listening) "Hemerocallis, the Perennial Supreme" was written by that lusty ole Cactophile, Dr. Philip Corliss; in his tenderfoot days, of course. We'll check with Ruth about adding it to our library for posterity's sake... As we have always said.... next to acquiring a good friend, the best acquisition is a good book....

-- NEMA TODD

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Like a little patch of blue in an otherwise dreary sky, the glistening fluorescent red flowers of *APOROCACTUS* gives us a glowing feeling of hope. Fleeting and fragile as it may be, we know that soon the clouds will offer no resistance to the omnipotent sun, and new life will abound. In the spring and summer, when we are knee deep in profusion, it is awfully easy to forget these harbingers that come at a time when the life cycle is at its lowest ebb.

Come with us to the window now, and look at the break in the clouds. At the slender, cascading branches alive with the radiance of the sun. At the resplendent purple-scarlet ornaments, urgently grasping the rampant stems, warding against winter's last flurry. With fear they may too soon be gone; hoarsely whispering, "Oh, please, hurry!!"

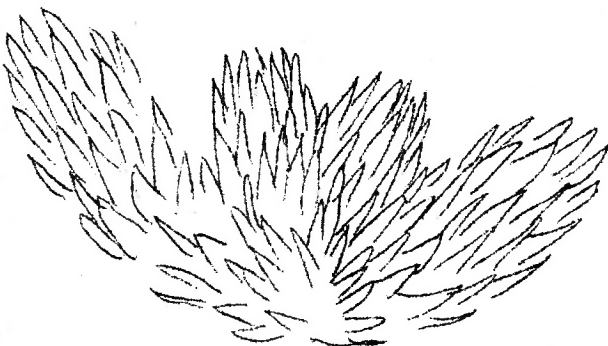
APOROCACTUS FLAGELLIFORMIS has lazily drooped from pots in sunny windows, festooned from hanging baskets, and clambered among the rocks of the gardens of admirers for 250 years. It is the best known and most universally popular, by far. In its native habitat it ranges from tropical Mexico to possibly as far South as the Northern jungles of South America. *Flagelliformis* can be found trailing from trees or creeping through rocky slopes; aerial roots freely form along the graceful stems, making it a most adaptable delicacy. The frail pendant stems are usually 2 to 3 feet long at maturity, and are generally no more than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick. The ribs are almost obscured by the masses of minute golden studded areoles; hence, the probable reference to the name (*a-po-o-ka-k-tus*) from the Greek meaning impenetrable cactus. *Flagelliformis* (*fla-jel-i-for-mis*) meaning whiplash, has peculiarly shaped flowers; they are somewhat reminiscent of the flower of Christmas cactus, at first glance. They bloom both day and night, with a blooming period that will extend until new growth begins to flourish in May. The fruit is red, globed shaped, and hairy.

It is very common in Mexico to see *A. Flagelliformis* draped over balconies, hanging from patio trees, or even planted in a cow's horn and hung on the side of the house. As you no doubt have concluded, it is excellent for the window garden, greenhouse, hanging basket, or just about any place in anything from partial shade to full sun. The plant is often grafted to *Nyctocereus* and *Selenicereus* stock; we have had good results using both *spochianus* and *opuntia* also. However, it will do very well on its own roots in a light, well drained soil, fairly rich in organic material; and will take lots of water in the growing season.

In many parts of Mexico the flowers are dried and used as a household remedy for "what ails ya", and can sometimes be found in the local "boticas" (drug stores) under the name of "flor de cuerno". The common name of "Rattail Cactus" might be descriptive, (Continued next page)



APOROCACTUS
FLAGELLIFORMIS



HAWORTHIA COARCTATA

but it doesn't stir us like the plant we saw once being trained over a framework and arranged like an umbrella. What better way to remember its noble efforts to shelter us from the cold and damp with a responsive glow, than to dub it our "Spring Parasol"....

--js

CO-ARC-TATA is from the Latin meaning compressed or crowded together. COARCTATA'S leaves are so densely packed and then stacked spirally around an elongated stem up to 8", that its general appearance is far more columnar than rosette.

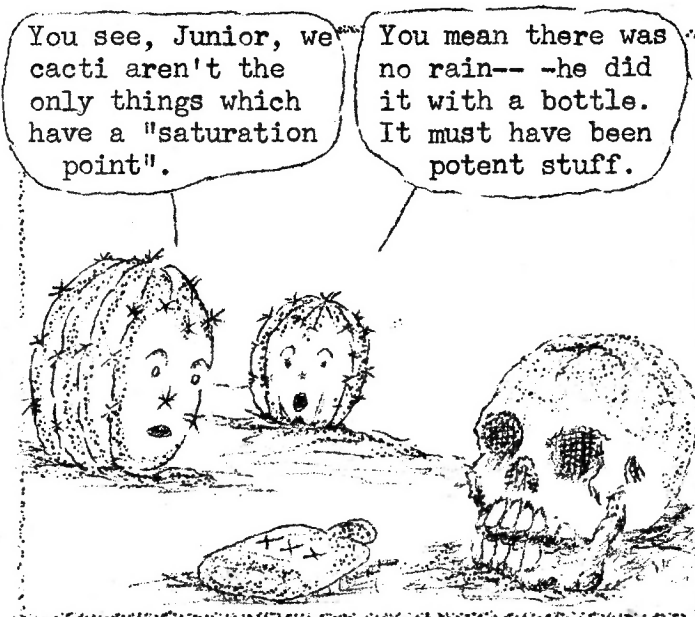
The erect, dark green leaves curve inward measuring $1\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$ " long and about $\frac{5}{8}$ " wide, are lanceolate-triangular, and taper gradually. The upper surface is nearly smooth, the back surface is strongly convex with small, greenish-white tubercles arranged longitudinally in somewhat transverse series. Description straight from Jacobson's Handbook of Succulents, Vol. II, which is available in our Society's library, for *Haworthia Coarctata* Variety *Coarctata*.

But there are 23 species of *Coarctatae* - another of which is the beautiful *Reinwardtii* (bawlderingly divided further into over 20 sub-species) - and *Sampaiana* with tubercles running zigzag, also with its named varietal forms. Most of us, however, would rather play plants than play names to that extent, but having three *Haworthias* all labelled *Coarctata*, and purchased from reliable nurseries, led us into this tangled maze of information, which is undoubtedly more than most of you are interested in. However, so much research shouldn't go unshared.

The genus *Haworthia* was already divided into several sections by the English botanist and collector, Adrian Hardy Haworth (1768-1833), and has been increased by later authors; Jacobson listing 20 sections. The distinctions are based on the position and shapes of the leaves.



OLD "MAIDS" OF THE ANDES*
(*Neoporteria Nidus*)



SATURATION POINT

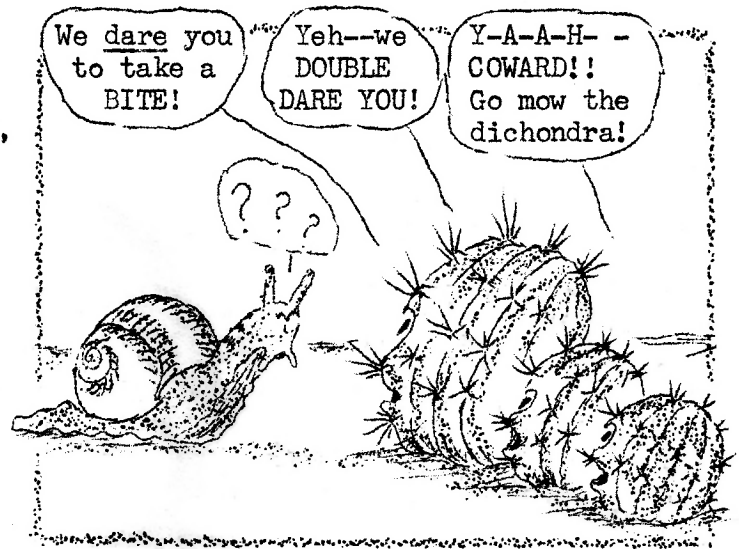
"Neat, clean-cut, dainty, and charming" are the adjectives used by most writers to describe these small succulents from S. W. Africa. Grown easily in equal parts of good garden loam, sharp sand, and screened leaf mold, they are quite tolerant of shade. Some redden in the sun, and others actually sunburn, but none withstand freezing. They are great little plants for bowls and window sills, retaining their characteristics wherever grown, and requiring cautious watering during their resting period. Easily grown with exceptions, as always, particularly *H. Arachnoides* and *Bolusii* are subject to root rot which can be avoided with at least $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of sand directly under.

Nature indulged in an exuberant fling of variation on a basic theme of rosette

(Continued next page)

PLANT OF THE MONTH -- Continued

design. Not content with pointed, tapering leaves, they were rounded, squared off, and extended, given windowed tips and pagoda dips. Colors range from the palest to the darkest of greens, with a few red-browns. Textures include the smooth and succulent, as well as the rough and tough. Edges are sharp, horny toothed and cobwebby bristled, with surfaces revealing checkered veining and pearly warts. There are few off-key notes but *H. Truncata* and *Maughani* resemble rows of "living rocks", and are rarely seen in collections. After such a prolific expenditure of leaf variation, little was left for the flower which is universally described as inconspicuous. They bloom from the bottom upward on long straggly stems, with no set schedule, although some are blooming now, white with greenish-purplish "Stripes" tubular in form.



BIGGER NUMBERS, GREATER COURAGE

Meanwhile, back to *Coarctata*. Our plant makes a nice cluster, suckering at the base. Propagation by division is preferable, since the numerous flat seeds are prone to lead to another hybrid. Bring your *Coarctatae* and check with Jacobson's classifications if you, too, are puzzled over the seeming inconsistencies of labelling. Do check the small plants before the meeting opens to see what you'll be voting for.

-- Nibby

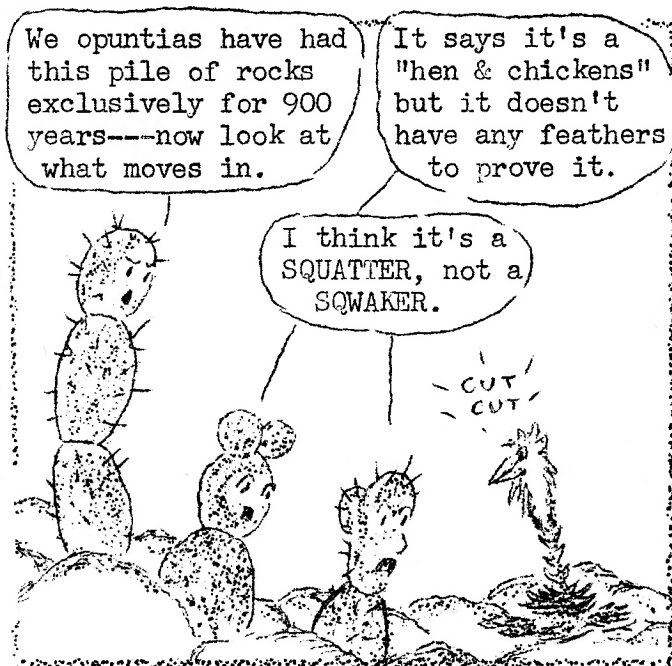
MACHAEROCEREUS (ma-ke-ro-se-re-us) is a genus comprised of two species of cacti, both from Baja California. Greek and Latin for "dagger-cereus", referring to the flat dagger-shaped spines.

ERUCA: (e-roo-ka) means caterpillar, reference the "Creeping Devil".

GUMMOSUS: (gum-o-sis) means gummy.

ANY LITTLE WORD OF MINE

If any little word of mine may make
 a life the brighter;
 If any little song of mine may make
 a heart the lighter,
 God help me speak the little word
 and take my bit of singing.
 And drop it in some lonely vale to
 set the echoes ringing.
 If any little love of mine may make
 a life the sweeter;
 If any little care of mine may make
 a friend's the fleeter;
 If any little lift may ease the
 burden of another,
 God give me love and care and
 strength to help my brother,



HEN & CHICKENS (*Sempervivium*)

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